

**LE, BAETJER, HOWARD & CIVILETTI, LLP**  
Including professional corporations

1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 300 East  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3955  
(202) 414-4000, Fax (202) 414-4040  
Telex 64267  
www.venable.com

**VENABLE**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

OFFICES IN

MARYLAND  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
VIRGINIA

George H. Spencer, P.C.  
(202) 414-4014  
ghspencer@venable.com

December 22, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Box PCT - DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

**63 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 DEC 1998**

FORM PTO-1390 (REV 5-93)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER SIMNS 4355.01	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371					
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP97/02167		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE April 26, 1997		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>09/202759</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION - see attached pages -		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED June 22, 1996			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US - see attached pages -					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:  1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I).					

- See attached pages for additional data -

LE, BAETJER, HOWARD & CIVILETTI, LLP  
Including professional corporations

1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 300 East  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3955  
(202) 414-4000, Fax (202) 414-4040  
Telex 64267  
www.venable.com

OFFICES IN

MARYLAND  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
VIRGINIA

**VENABLE**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

December 22, 1998

George H. Spencer, P.C.  
(202) 414-4014  
ghspencer@venable.com

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket: SIMNS 4355.01

Attention: PCT-DO/US

Re: INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/EP97/02167 filed April 26, 1997  
Priority Claimed: Germany 196 24 977.5 of June 22, 1996

Inventors: Karl-Günther HÄNSEL and Walter ROSENBAUM

Title: Method of Processing Postal Matters

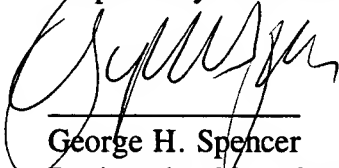
Submitted herewith, as the first submission, are the following for the purposes of entering the national stage for the USA under 35 U.S.C. 371(c), immediate national examination under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) being requested.

- International Application PCT/EP97/02668 published as WO 97/49502, with English-language international search report issued by the European Patent Office.
- Filing fee of \$840.00

Should no remittance be attached, or should a greater or lesser fee be required, please charge or credit our Account No. 19-3700.

NOTE: The inventor declaration and translation will follow.

Respectfully submitted,



George H. Spencer  
Registration No. 18,038

GHS:jc